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Here's how I can serve you!

Please contact me:

- ❖ To ask questions about legislation being considered in Olympia.
- ❖ To let me know what you think about the important issues facing our communities.
- ❖ To request help to resolve a dispute with a state agency.
- ❖ To obtain information on our Capitol and the legislative process.

Representative

KATHY LAMBERT

45th District

2001 Legislative Survey



**From the Desk of
Representative Kathy Lambert**

Dear friends & neighbors,

The legislative session for 2001 is underway and I am honored to represent you again in Olympia. Education, the energy crisis, fixing our transportation problems, repairing earthquake damage, and the state budget are a few of the issues keeping me busy.

We have some tough questions to answer about the state budget this year: and I truly need your input as we begin to look for new and better ways to deliver government services. This is a great challenge, and I appreciate your help.

I hope you will take a few moments to complete the attached survey.

By the way, if you're ever in Olympia during the legislative session, please stop by and see me. *Kathy Lambert*



***Rep. Lambert represents the 45th District
before the State Legislature.***

Representative KATHY LAMBERT

45th District

The State Budget Update



Let me give you some background information on the budget numbers and issues we are facing this year. With the passage of several new initiatives, energy cost increases and a changing economic environment, the state's budget situation is significantly different from what it was only a year ago.

The good news is that the state begins the year with about a \$1 billion surplus.

The bad news is that the entire surplus is used up by initiative spending increases and other unexpected costs. There is a dramatic \$226 million increase in health benefit costs for state employees and K-12 employees. The rapidly rising energy costs add \$300 million. Another \$100 million is needed for increasing state higher education enrollments and financial aid needs. And we do not know yet the costs of the earthquake damage to buildings, roads, and the Capitol.

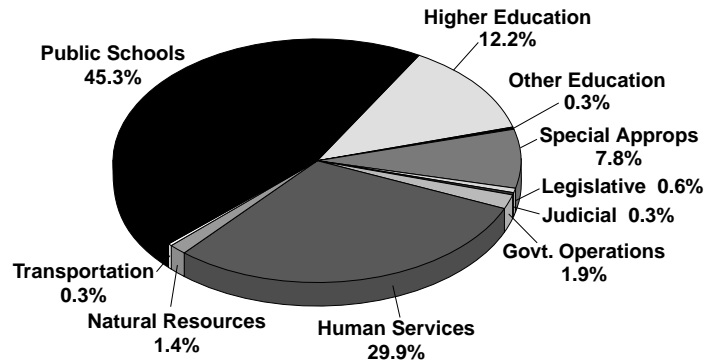
To maintain the current level of state government services, the state budget would grow by \$1.3 billion to \$22.2 billion. This is barely under the I-601 spending limit. When you include the additional teacher salary costs mandated by the passage this year of Initiative 732, that puts projected state spending at \$22.5 billion.

When you add in the cost increases outlined above, the projected state budget is about \$23 billion. This is far in excess of the I-601 spending limit, and it nearly surpasses the state's total potential resources to pay for the budget.

None of these budget projections include additional money to address our state's serious transportation problems. Without question, the state has its most serious budget situation since 1993.

Which leads us to the big question – now what?

Washington General Fund Budget (FY 1999-2001)



Legislative Update

Listed below is a highlight of some legislation I am sponsoring this year:

HB 1486 – this legislation would give much needed property tax relief to senior citizens.

HB 1838 – this bill would provide increased school safety by mapping the schools for emergency personnel.

HB 1103 – this bill would improve the flow of information from elected officials to the people they are responsible for representing.

HB 1810 – this legislation would give added oversight by the Legislature over the rulemaking process of government agencies in order to bring additional accountability.

Make your voice heard in Olympia!

I would like to know what you think about the important issues facing the Legislature this year. Your input will be helpful as we begin the budget debate in Olympia.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(very important to receive your **Lambert Issue Update!**)

2001 LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

1 Let me know what issues are personally most important to you. Please identify what you consider the five most important issues impacting your life. Identify them in order of importance on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 represents "Most important" and 5 represents "Least important":

- _____ Drugs and crime
- _____ Economy and jobs
- _____ Environment
- _____ Growth management
- _____ Health care access
- _____ Health care cost
- _____ Higher Education
- _____ Property taxes
- _____ Public education (K-12)
- _____ Sales and other state taxes
- _____ Social issues
- _____ State government spending
- _____ Transportation/traffic gridlock
- _____ Welfare reform
- _____ Other _____

2 A Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation has recently identified the statewide needs for transportation improvements over the next 20 years. The commission found that "Overall, there is an insufficient level of funding for the roadway system at the state, county and city levels as well as for alternative modes such as transit, passenger and freight rail, and trip reduction programs." What, **if any**, measures to raise additional revenue for transportation would you favor?

- _____ Gas tax increase
- _____ Indexing the gas tax to inflation
- _____ Sales tax on gas
- _____ Weight-based user fees, applied to all private vehicles
- _____ Surcharge on transportation-related goods, such as new and used vehicles, parts and accessories
- _____ A statewide sales tax increase
- _____ Other (Specify) _____
- _____ None of the above
- _____ We don't need additional funds

3a Would you be willing to provide additional money through a gas tax if it is dedicated to transportation?

- _____ Very willing
- _____ Somewhat willing
- _____ Not willing

3b If you are willing, how much of an increase per gallon?

- _____ 5 cents to 10 cents
- _____ 11 cents to 20 cents
- _____ 21 cents to 30 cents
- _____ more _____

4 Check the two best ways to improve our public education system.

- _____ Better management at the local level
- _____ Better policies by the state Legislature
- _____ Greater accountability from our local schools
- _____ Smaller class sizes
- _____ Better training/testing for teachers
- _____ Increase funding
- _____ Different curriculum
- _____ Increased choices for parents
- _____ Opportunity for charter schools

Other thoughts _____

5 In order to balance the state budget it may be necessary to cut some existing state programs and services. In what areas would you support spending **cuts** to help balance the budget? (Rank by order of priority, where 1 is most important and 5 is least important.)

- _____ Social Services
- _____ Health Care
- _____ Public Schools (K-12)
- _____ Higher Education
- _____ Natural Resources
- _____ Transportation
- _____ Other (Please specify) _____

6 In your opinion, are current property taxes:

- _____ Too low
- _____ Fair or reasonable
- _____ Too high

Other thoughts _____



Please
place
stamp
here



State Representative Kathy Lambert
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

7

Do you favor a constitutional amendment that allows the Legislature oversight of rules and regulations made by state agencies?

Yes

No

8

What is your most important health care concern?

Access to high quality medical care

Availability of health care

Affordability of health insurance

Providing health care access for the indigent

Access to specialized care such as dental and eye care

9

Please let me know of any other issues of concern to you:

Survey attached: I need your input!

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